

Technical Advisory No. 14

- 1. Immigration Comparison Chart Between Canada and Mexico Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and,**
- 2. Listing of Professional Occupations and Minimum Requirements for Qualification Under NAFTA**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued implementing regulations regarding the entry of individuals from Canada and Mexico under NAFTA. Included with the Technical Advisory is a comparison of the immigration requirements for Canada and Mexico and a Listing of Professional Occupations covered under NAFTA with the minimum educational requirements.

The NAFTA provisions generally parallel those of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) which is replaced by NAFTA. The new immigration symbol is "TN"; "TC" under the former CFTA is no longer available. One major change in NAFTA is the prohibition against self-employment under NAFTA for both Canada and Mexico. Under CFTA the regulations did not specifically address self-employment. Conceivably, there could be Special Volunteers or Guest Researchers from Canada in TC status who were self-employed. Under NAFTA such individuals and their dependents may not extend their stay in the U.S., or apply for reentry.

Another change under NAFTA is a new nonimmigrant status "TD" (Trade Dependent) which was created for the dependents of TN status individuals; under CFTA individuals in this status entered under B-2 visitors visas. Dependents (spouse and unmarried children under 21 only) cannot be employed in the U.S. unless they qualify and enter with their own TN status.



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